

# M. C. T. U. NOTES.



**A PARABLE CONCERNING A SNAKE.**  
A farmer once found a rattlesnake in his field. Having caught it and gagged it and put it in a bag, he carried it home, and called his neighbors together, saying, "Behold, I have captured a snake, and it is big and strong; now, therefore, what shall I do with it?" Then one man rose up and said, "This is a very harmless-looking reptile. I think he might be allowed to go wherever he pleases." Another said, "My friend, do you not know that this harmless-looking serpent has a sting? Now therefore, I move that all people, and especially all young people, be warned faithfully to keep out of the way of the serpent, lest they be bitten." This counsel seemed to impress the assembly very favorably.

Then a third speaker began on this wise: "Since the bite of this reptile is so very dangerous, I would submit that it might be well to make certain rules and regulations; as, for instance, that he is not to go abroad on the day that is called Sunday; and that he must not be allowed to sting anybody who is not of age; moreover, that he shall not be let out from his cage at all until a council of citizens shall so decide. And finally," said this wise and thoughtful man, "I suggest that an oath be administered to our neighbor the keeper of the snake, that he will faithfully fulfill all these provisions."

Now, it came to pass that the neighbors were so moved with these words that with one voice they cried out, "Let it be done, even as thou hast said!" And they were about to adjourn.

When, behold, there came an old man into the council, and hearing what had been done, he exclaimed, "The snake! Give him to me, and I will crush his head!"

At this there was a great commotion. Some cried one thing and some another; but all were agreed that such proceedings would be contrary to their rights and liberties; for they loved the snake. And, lo, he liveth to this day! He that is wise, let him interpret the parable.—*The Sower.*

## PROHIBITION AND PRAYER.

The following from one of Hon. Ansley Gray's lectures brings the question home to professing Christians who are withholding their support from Prohibitory Amendments:

"I respect the opinions of all men, but I cannot understand how a man can pray: 'Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name'—and then go to the ballot-box and vote for Satan's kingdom to come. I cannot understand how one can pray: 'Give us this day our daily bread'—and then cast a vote to take bread from the mouth of the white-faced woman and the thin-lipped child. I cannot understand how one can pray: 'Lead us not into temptation'—and then cast a vote that thrusts temptation in a brother's way. Nor how at the altar one can pray for the drunkard, and at the ballot-box vote to make drunkards—around is insulted humanity, above an insulted God!"

## WHAT ONE MOTHER DID.

*Sarah Karl.*  
"A Just Criticism," published in a late issue, calls to mind a friend of mine who was left alone with a family of five boys. Being impressed with the importance of their early acquiring a knowledge of the great physical truths which sooner or later, from sources pure or impure, must be revealed to them, she took occasion, as, one by one, their minds sufficiently developed, to convey to them this knowledge. She taught them reverently and tenderly, as befitting this most important and imperative mother duty. She won the confidence and devotion of their young hearts, and became their trusted counselor in all things. They grew up in an Eastern city. Temptation and danger beset their pathway. The saloon, the gaming-table, the gilded halls of vice held out their allurements, but in vain. In the wisdom and sympathy and womanliness of their mother, and the healthy atmosphere of their home, they found shelter and safety from outside perils. To-day they are prominent business men, occupying positions of trust and honor; models of moral and physical integrity, and their mother is to them an object of reverence and tenderness. Such a record of parental duty as this would have saved many a parent from an old age full of sorrow and regret; and many a bright and promising mother's idol from crime, insanity, idiosyncrasy and death.

## WHY SHOULD IT BE?

As soon as the Philadelphians discovered that a few persons in that city had died from food adulteration, they set up a loud cry for the arrest of the guilty parties. Thousands of people in the same city have been poisoned by whiskey adulteration, but the cry for the suppression of the evil is not nearly so loud nor unanimous.—*Norristown Herald.*

## ET TU, BRUTE?

*Dr. Howard Crosby, in the Forum.*  
If government has the right and duty to cut off the sources of crime and misery, it certainly has the paramount duty of exterminating these prolific fountains of social poison (saloons).

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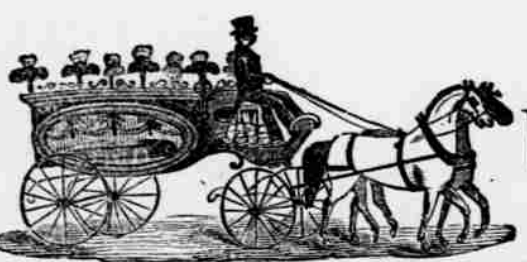
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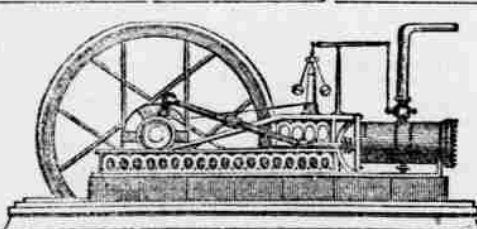
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